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## Sub Regional Workshop on MDG-based Planning, Costing and Budgeting for the Polynesian Countries

26 - 29 May 2008 Rarotoga, Cook Islands

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*Partners in achieving prosperity and stability in the Pacific*

WORKSHOP REPORT

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**Sub Regional Workshop on MDG-based  
Planning, Costing and Budgeting  
for the Polynesian Countries**

Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau and Tonga  
held in Rarotoga, Cook Islands 26-29 May 2008

# Introduction

At mid-point to the deadline to reach the Millennium Development Goals, it is recognised that by and large, unsatisfactory progress has been made worldwide towards achieving the MDGs. While some countries have made remarkable progress on some goals, slow progress persists towards other goals, and disparities remain between the national and local or regional levels, with rising inequality in some countries. This trend is similarly reflected in the Pacific region where the performance of countries on the MDG framework varies by goal and between the urban centres and rural areas or outer islands. Generally speaking, one notes that countries in the Melanesia sub region lag behind on several goals and need additional support to make a significant dent towards achievement of the MDGs. While some progress has been made, the Micronesian countries in the North Pacific are struggling to maintain development gains. Countries in the Polynesia sub region show a marked improvement in human development indicators, and generally are on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015. However, additional efforts need to address vulnerabilities to climate change, HIV/AIDS and gender inequalities. 2008 is therefore a milestone year to review progress, and identify the required support to accelerate improvements towards poverty reduction, achievement of countries national development priorities and the MDGs.

Building upon the foundation established in 2006 through a regional workshop on the MDGs, in 2007, the UNDP Pacific Centre - in collaboration with other UN Agencies and UNDP Regional Centres in Colombo and Bangkok - organised two sub regional workshops on MDG-based planning, costing and budgeting. The first workshop was organised in Pohnpei, FSM in June 2007, and aimed at strengthening national capacities in linking policy, planning and budgeting in the North Pacific countries of the Federated States of Micronesia (all four States), Palau, the Republic of Marshall Islands and Kiribati. The second workshop had a similar focus and was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands for the West Pacific countries of Fiji, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Nauru and Solomon Islands. The Polynesian sub regional MDG workshop held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in May 2008 is therefore the third and last in the series of sub regional workshops. The workshop targeted government and non government participants from Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and Cook Islands.

The workshop was designed to strengthen national capacities in understanding poverty and hardship and the MDGs, and how different types of policies can contribute to poverty reduction and achievement of national priorities and the MDGs. Understanding how to put together an MDG-based national sustainable development strategy (NSDS) or national plan, and aligning resource allocation mechanisms to overarching policies was part of the workshop objective. In this respect, the experience of the Philippines on planning and budgeting, including gender responsive budgeting, was both practical and interesting. Given the vulnerability of Pacific Islands Countries to natural disasters and the rising prices of oil, environment and energy featured prominently in the workshop sessions. The highlight of the workshop was the introduction of a number of sectoral needs assessment / costing tools to enable countries to identify sectoral priorities and estimate the resource requirement to finance implementation of interventions in these key areas. There was strong interest in the following needs assessment / costing tools: education, health, HIV, environment, energy and gender, and countries have requested follow up training in-country so that more national counterparts can be trained to use the tools.

The workshop had a strong focus on gender, with specific sessions on gender responsive policies, gender responsive budgeting and the introduction of the gender costing tool. Gender was also addressed and mainstreamed in other sessions, including on disaster risk reduction.

The expected outcome of the workshop was greater understanding of poverty / MDG-related issues, including what countries should do to achieve the MDGs; strengthened capacities in identifying sectoral priorities, and how to link these to national planning; better grounding of the budget process and how this should relate to policy and planning; and understanding of how to use the needs assessment / costing tools to inform policy decisions and prioritisation, and provide a rationale for the preparation of sectoral / national budgets. Countries made presentations on their respective planning and budget processes, and the linkages to policy. This was seen as a very useful session, enabling participants to learn from each other and see how the process varies in the sub region.

## Official Opening

The key note address at the workshop was delivered by Ms. Naheed Haque, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for the Samoa Multi Country Office, covering Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. In her statement, Ms. Haque thanked the Hon. Prime Minister for the Cook Islands hospitality and for kindly accepting to officially open the workshop. She highlighted that 2008 is a milestone year for the MDGs, with a number of high level meetings taking place to review the performance of countries in achieving the MDGs. Ms. Haque also indicated that the workshop brings together countries with similar human development levels to share experience and learn from each other. The workshop aims to strengthen understanding of how national and local development priorities can align with the MDGs, inform policy formulation at sector and national level, and increase coherence among sector and national plan and budgets frameworks. She hoped that as the workshop would introduce a number of needs assessment / costing tools to support governments to estimate expenditure in education, health, gender, energy, environment, infrastructure and other sectors, and also support prioritisation of interventions and policy options, this training would not be a one-off event, and that capacity strengthening would be an ongoing support. She emphasised that particular attention should be paid to addressing gender issues, vulnerability to climate change and environmental concerns, and the needs of vulnerable communities.

The workshop was officially opened by Honourable Jim Marurai, Prime Minister of the Government of the Cook Islands. In his opening statement, the Hon. Prime Minister extended a very warm welcome to all workshop participants, and expressed appreciation to UNDP for choosing Cook Islands as the venue for the sub regional workshop. The Hon. Prime Minister emphasised that at mid point to the deadline to reach the MDGs, it is opportune to reflect on the progress which countries have been able to achieve, as well as take stock of whether development partners have lived up to their pledges to scale up aid resources to developing countries. The Hon. Prime Minister highlighted that the Cook Islands has embraced the spirit of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, and will fulfil their commitments. He also indicated that while the Polynesia sub region is on track to achieve all the goals by 2015, a number of key issues need to be addressed, including climate change, rising oil and food prices, and gender inequities. The Hon. Prime Minister was pleased to note the alignment between the focus of the workshop and the development concerns of the Polynesian countries. He particularly welcome the One UN collaboration for the workshop.

The full content of the above two statements can be found at Annex III and IV.

# List of Abbreviations

AIDS	-	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
BDP	-	Bureau for Development Policy
BPS	-	Budget Policy Statement
BPA	-	Beijing Platform for Action
CC	-	Climate change
CEDAW	-	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	-	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organisations
DRR	-	Disaster Risk Reduction
EPSSim	-	Education Policy & Strategy Simulation Model
ESA	-	Economic Support Arrangement
GAD	-	Gender and Development
GEF	-	Global Environment Facility
HIES	-	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIV	-	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
MD	-	Millennium Declaration
MDGs	-	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation
MTEF	-	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NAPA	-	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NCDs	-	Non Communicable Diseases
NISP	-	Niue Integrated Strategic Plan
NSDP	-	National Sustainable Development Plan
NSDS	-	National Sustainable Development Strategy
OPM	-	Office of the Prime Minister
OPVI	-	Oil Price Vulnerability Index
PP	-	Pacific Plan
PPA	-	Pacific Platform for Action
PSC	-	Public Service Commission
RCB	-	Regional Centre Bangkok
RCC	-	Regional Centre Colombo
SDP	-	Strategic Development Plan
SDS	-	Strategy for the Development of Samoa
SOPAC	-	Pacific Islands Applied Geo-Sciences Commission
SPC	-	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
STIs	-	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	-	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	-	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	-	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	-	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	-	United Nations Fund for Women

The first session of the workshop sought to lay a foundation and common understanding on the definition of poverty and hardship in the Pacific, as well as the state of progress towards achievement of the MDGs.

Day 1 - Session I: Objective: Achieving national development priorities and the MDGs & reducing poverty: policy implication

### The MDG framework in the Polynesian Sub Region, Carol Flore-Smrecznik, UNDP Pacific Centre

The first session provided a comprehensive assessment of the MDGs and how the 5 Polynesian countries are performing on the MDG framework. The presentation highlighted that in September 2007, the MDG monitoring framework was revised to include 4 additional targets and 11 related indicators. Emphasis was placed on the Millennium Declaration, the normative content of the MDGs, specifically on human rights, equality - including gender equality, and the rights-based approach to development. The inter-relatedness of the goals, the non-exclusive aspect of the MDGs, and the synergies between the MDGs and human rights frameworks were reinforced. There was a strong focus on women empowerment and financing for gender equality, with concrete examples being provided to underscore the centrality of gender to achievement of all the MDGs. Generally speaking, the five countries in the Polynesian sub region are doing well on the MDG framework. However, the political representation of women in Parliaments and Cabinets remains extremely low, and the issue of non-communicable diseases needs serious attention, along with adaptation and mitigation efforts to climate change. The importance of monitoring and reporting on the MDGs - and the use of the MDG Monitor - complemented by planning and budgeting to achieve the MDGs, was highlighted. Attention was drawn to the role of civil society organizations in collaborating with governments as well as hold them accountable.

During the discussions, countries raised concern with the inadequate level of financing available from donor partners to support them in implementing their national development priorities. Some countries felt that their high level of debt could reverse their MDG gains unless additional financing can be made available. It was suggested that countries which do not have representation in New York could make a formal submission through the Pacific Ambassadors' Group, currently chaired by Tonga, to ensure that the Polynesian concerns are voiced at the High Level Event on the MDGs in September 2008.

Cooks Islands indicated that its MDG Report would be reviewed by the end of this year to align with achievement of the MDGs. Participants were informed that the last census was in 2006 and a Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) has just been finalised. SPC will provide support for the analysis of the results. These should provide sufficient data to review the MDG Report.

Samoa's first National MDG Report was prepared in 2004, but remained unpublished. The current UNDP Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) makes provision for the review of the MDG Report. In the implementation phase, emphasis is being placed on those MDGs which are unlikely to be achieved by 2015, namely MDG 7. There is also a lack of capacity to focus on measurement of the MDGs. The last population census was in 2006, and the HIES is currently being processed. So there is sufficient data to work on a review of the MDG Report.

Tokelau informed that there is data available which can be used to update the information available on the country's indicators. However, the lack of capacity to do the compilation of the data and report write-up was raised.

### Data sources, definitions of poverty, and policy implications, David Abbott, UNDP Pacific Centre

It is acknowledged that the definition of poverty as people living on less than US\$1/a day per person is not applicable to the Pacific. But hardship, capturing both income and human poverty, reflects an inadequate level of sustainable development, manifested in the Pacific in three ways: lack of access to basic services (education, health, infrastructure); lack of opportunities to participate fully in economic life (employment and economic activities); and lack of adequate resources to meet the basic needs and customary obligations of households. In addressing these issues, it is important to raise general awareness of what is taking place in society so as to put in place effective policy initiatives, strategies and national plans. Awareness can be raised through quantitative indicators and qualitative and participatory assessments. When undertaking poverty analysis, it is important to identify who are the poor, where they live, and why they are poor. Over the past years, there has been an increasing awareness of those who are disadvantaged. Governments have committed to achieving the MDGs and are developing policies based on analysis and data, often referred to as evidenced-based policy and decision-making.



Representatives of the Tongan delegation at the workshop

To calculate the cost of basic needs for populations, both food and non-food basic needs are taken into consideration. In general, within each Pacific country, one in four households has a level of expenditure which does not meet the minimum cost of a basic standard of living. This can be higher in some countries, and lower in others, and are therefore relative numbers. The gap between the better off and the least off (poverty gap) is most severe in FSM and Fiji. The Gini Coefficient, which measures the level of inequality - the higher the index the greater the level of inequality - also indicates that inequalities are rising. Emerging issues impacting on poverty and hardship in Pacific Island societies include the increasing monetisation of Pacific economies, migration, food security and the proportion of food in low income households.

The presentation was followed by discussions which further clarified the definition and understanding of poverty, and highlighted the contextual understanding of food security in the Pacific.

**Pro-poor policy and implications for MDGs achievement, David Abbott,  
UNDP Pacific Centre**

Compared to the high GDP growth rate in Asia, there has been highly variable growth rates in the Pacific, and in general, the region has witness slow growth of only 1.7% per annum. Poverty might therefore have increased in many households in the Pacific. While broad-based economic growth is recognised as a necessary condition for poverty reduction, growth alone is not sufficient and requires an enabling environment for economic opportunities to be created for the poor to improve their lives. Good pro-poor policies tend to target the most disadvantaged population groups, and aim at increasing the income levels of the poorest at a faster rate than the average income as a whole, hopefully resulting in a reduction in inequality. In formulating MDG-based national development strategies, it is important to ensure that MDG-focused policies are pro-growth in the long term, and equally imperative to ensure consistency between macro and growth policies and pro-poor, MDG-focused policies, looking at the impact of economic reform on those who are disadvantaged and vulnerably. Policies and strategies also need to be holistic and address linkages among sectors, with Government prioritising, where necessary. A sound fiscal policy will put in place non-discriminatory tax and tariff policies, and ensure that budgets are transparent, with resource allocations increased for services used by the poor and women in particular, and user charges based on the ability to pay. A proper costing of policies can be done based on clear, target goals and targeted interventions; assessing the impact of policies; the unit cost of delivery; and the cost of doing nothing. It was noted that inaction can have a cost impact as in poor health, poor educational attainment, social tension, pressure on infrastructure, etc.

**Child-friendly policy and child-friendly budget for MDGs achievement,  
Mereia Carling, UNICEF**

The presentation highlighted that focusing on children is one way of achieving the MDGs as many MDGs relate to children. The key principles of child friendly policy as reflected in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) are universality, non-discrimination, indivisibility, participation and accountability.

These provide a framework for thinking about the needs of all children. In thinking about universality and the budget, for example, the objective is to ensure that it takes into account all the rights of all children and do not leave some behind. This means that in achieving all rights of all children, governments need to balance key priorities with competing resources. The principle of non discrimination ensures no child is excluded. An example is to ensure that all children in rural areas have access to water (MDG7) so that they can all go to school (MDG2). The rights of children are inter-related just as the MDGs are inter related, reinforcing the principle of indivisibility and an integrated approach to achieve all rights. Participation means that children should be involved in policy formulation, with accountability relating to participation.

Child friendly budgets can improve the standard of living of children directly. As a pre-condition to child friendly budgeting, there is need to define and assess child poverty, as children are more vulnerable than and experience poverty differently from adults. This can be done through analysis of household level data. There are many costs when actions are not taken, and preventative actions can be helpful.

An important aspect of child friendly budget is the need to strike a balance in the budget between economic and social provision, looking at options which are costed.

### **The impact of migration on population structures in Polynesia: Implications for MDGs achievement, Jean Louis Rallu, UNFPA**

In Polynesian PICs, large scale international migration impacts strongly on age structure and dependency ratios, reaching 80% in Tonga, Samoa and Tokelau and around 65% in Cook and Niue – due to lower fertility in the latter. Such high ratios are due to depleted adult cohorts and large number of children. High fertility is a strategy to avoid population decline and provide future migrants to ensure constant flow of remittances.

The Demographic Window of opportunity is less an issue in migration countries, because the work force is abroad and sends remittances. However, this has drawbacks, as brain drain reduces qualification of local work force and remittances are mostly used for consumption, and much less for investments and savings. Brain drain and departures of most entrepreneurial adults are also detrimental to social and political change.

In terms of achieving the MDGs, a stable population due to migration tends to ease coverage of services, but the quality is low and hinders progress in health and education. It is still debated whether remittances reduce or increase inequalities. It is clear that poor households have fewer migrants and usually receive less remittances than richer households whose migrants are more qualified. However, even limited inflow of remittances can lift a number of households out of poverty. Making the islands attractive (investments policies, good governance, openness to new ideas, etc) enough to return (or circular) migrants is the challenge to reap the benefits of circulation of elites that would increase local technical capacity and development. A vicious circle can be identified with low quality of education resulting in low qualified migrants who are subjected to unstable employment in rim countries and send less remittances than more qualified migrants with stable/formal employment and higher wages, and finally are often in poverty.

### **Gender-responsiveness for MDGs achievement, Ana Laqeretabua, UNIFEM**

The presentation highlighted the centrality of gender equality to the Millennium Declaration which provides a broad framework for working towards achievement of the MDGs. Pacific commitment to gender equality is theoretically strong, with 14 countries having ratified CEDAW and many National Women's machineries having National Women Action Plans. However, a lack of technical capacity on gender hampers implementation of commitments on the Beijing Platform for Action and the Pacific Platform for Action. Strategic entry points to ensure that the MDGs promote gender equality include framing national indicators that respond to CEDAW and Beijing priorities, improving statistical capacity on gender equality issues, and identifying appropriate implementation measures. In this last respect, the CEDAW Committee Concluding Comments often give guidance on specific gender equality measures that can be implemented. Because of the unprecedented global consensus on the MDGs, they provide an opportunity to improve coordination on gender equality concerns and raise them to higher policy levels. The national planning process therefore allows countries to re-energize gender equality initiatives. Conversely, gender equality indicators can also support CEDAW implementation, highlighting the mutually reinforcing relationship between the MDGs and human rights frameworks. In mainstreaming gender in a programme or project, it is important to understand existing

gender roles and the cultural context of gender, include gender issues in the assessment phase (ensure gender analysis is carried out), integrate gender specific actions, and take account of gender indicators in all phases of programming, including in monitoring and evaluation.

The presentation was followed by a group exercise to encourage participants to think through gender friendly policies and how to ensure the gender perspective is addressed when decisions are made. The group discussions on the case study were very lively and participants were quick to identify the likely impacts of privatisation on women and also on men.

### Day 2 - Session III: Objective - Planning and Budgeting to achieve national priorities and the MDGs

#### How to plan for MDG-based NSDS, Anuradha Seth, UNDP Regional Centre Colombo?

MDG-based national development strategies can provide several benefits. In seeking to answer the central question of what it will take to achieve the MDGs, they help to translate long term goals into operational targets, and support the formulation of a strategy to increase the absorptive capacity of countries. Since the 2005 World Summit there has been a shift in the MDG approach from initially being a monitoring framework to now focusing on operational aspects linked to national development plans. MDG-based national development strategies often strengthens the coherence between planning and budget processes, as costing allows planners to allocated resources to clearly identified interventions. An important aspect of MDG-based NSDS is that it links to the macro-economic framework, looking at the need for scaling up of public investments with implications for economic growth and income distribution. MDG-based NSDS provide a monitoring and accountability framework and because they are comprehensive, prioritized and costed, can support policy dialogue and negotiations between countries and their development partners. The guiding principles to prepare an MDG-based NSDS is that they are best done when there is high level commitment; the process is nationally owned, inclusive, transparent; it fits into ongoing processes; and it is regularly reviewed.

The key steps are to start by (i) setting and/or adapting targets as it defines the scope and scale of interventions; (ii) review existing plans and establish baselines as many countries already have sector strategies; (iii) undertake the needs assessment / costing through 2015. The needs



Country presentations at the workshop, chaired by UNICEF's Mereia Carling (right)

assessment /costing is a bottom up approach to planning which looks at the total cost of interventions, and specifies interventions such as goods / infrastructure/ services; defines coverage targets for each interventions; estimate the resource needs - both recurrent and capital cost; and check results; (iv) develop a consistent macro-framework, policies and financing strategy; and (v) develop a MDG-based long term development strategy. Currently, there are 9 MDG needs assessment /costing tools developed.

During the discussions, concern was raised over who will pay the cost if the costing exercise is an unconstrained exercise. It was clarified that financing is part of the process, and although the costing exercise is separate, the two are linked and required. The issue of estimating total costs as opposed to incremental cost was also debated, as in some sectors, things change over time. It was pointed out that as the costing exercise is done over a 10-year period or more, the exercise has to be an iterative one, revisiting the cost every 3 years or so, to reflect changes. Discussions also highlighted that sectors need to be realistic in identifying interventions and estimating the resource needs, and avoid coming up with wish lists.

### **Planning and Budgeting to achieve the MDGs, Emma Sanopo, National Economic Development Authority, Government of Philippines**

The presentation on the Philippine highlighted that the Development Plan integrates the MDGs, child-friendly policies and population policies, with linkages done from the regional to the local level, and subsequently integrated at national level. The Framework Plan from which programs and projects are identified is the investment program. The budget framework indicates what the national government intends to spend and includes the source of funds. The budget preparation starts with the budget call followed by budget hearing, before line agencies' budgets are consolidated for approval by the President. Public expenditures are managed to keep public spending within affordable limits, spend on the right things and at reasonable cost. Philippines has an MTEF which is a top-down budget allocation process based on policies and the priorities set by the national government. It is also a bottom-up estimation of the cost of policies, programs and projects. This goes together with an organizational performance indicator framework to focus expenditure on priorities.

The planning process is anchored in data gathering and analysis, including identification of gender issues, which is integrated in the socio-economic profile which addresses physical, economic, social and other issues. The Budget Circular states that each Ministry must allocate a minimum of 5% of their budget to gender and development (GAD). The GAD budget is essentially the cost of the GAD action plan, and is an integral part of the regular budget of the line agency. The GAD budget is prepared by a team including the GAD focal point, planner and finance personnel who first identify gender issues and relates the planning and budgeting to these issues.

A number of good practices emerged from the Philippine case: clear integration of the MDGs and situation analysis which informs the action plan and aligning the budgeting to the plan. The lesson is not to start with the budget and then fit the activities, but rather focus on the needs and issues before going to the budgeting step.

The case study on the Philippines generated lively discussions, and also addressed the role of CSOs in the formulation of national plans and budgets. In the case of the Philippines, there is a meaningful and structured involvement of CSOs in the planning and budget processes. Cook Islands highlighted that in their case, the gender budget is mostly for salaries and there

is a strong reliance on donor funding to implement projects. Other participants mentioned that there is often a reliance on annual budget with no links to a medium term planning and budget framework, and if the funds are not spent, these usually revert back to the Ministry of Finance. The need to review legislation in order to incorporate projects for a lifespan of 3 years or more into an MTEF and have them costed was debated. It was recommended that donor funding aligns with the multi-year funding framework.

### **MDG financing and linking cost estimates with national budgetary/ fiscal instruments: The core of the MDG Initiative, Anuradha Seth, UNDP Regional Centre Colombo**

The issue of how to finance the MDGs is critical for several reasons: (a) as most of the funding is from public investments for basic social services, there is often a need to scale up public investments if the MDGs are to be achieved; (b) ODA increases for MDG investments have not been forthcoming, and there is a need to look at an exit strategy from ODA in the long term; and (c) the implementation of a national plan requires resources. To estimate the MDG financing gap, the total volume of capital and recurrent resources required can be derived from the needs assessments for achieving each MDG. Since government already has MDG-related programmes financed from public funds, the gap is between the investment needs and what government is already spending. In doing this, a key technical issue is to determine what constitutes MDG-related expenditures. The conceptual framework for financing the MDGs is to undertake a fiscal space diagnostic, looking at the four pillars of ODA, domestic revenue mobilisation, public borrowing and reprioritisation and efficiency of expenditures. The experience of Bhutan's formulation of a national strategy to finance the MDGs and the results was shared in detail.

The discussions highlighted the challenge of identifying resources to finance the MDGs in small Pacific Islands Countries. A key point was made that while the most important bilateral donors have continually increased ODA year by year to PICs (except for PNG), financing the MDGs is not just about ODA, and governments have to look at resources which can be mobilized domestically, including through reprioritization from one sector to another. Public borrowing should be a last resort. Countries questioned whether the Paris Declaration requires an exit strategy from ODA. It was clarified that exit strategies are usually required at project level.

Day 2 - Session IV - Objective: Introducing the Needs Assessment / Costing Tools to support policy formulation at sectoral and national levels

### **Introducing the Education Costing Tool, David Abbott, UNDP Pacific Centre**

The Education Costing Tool - as is the case for the other Costing Tools - consists of excel spread sheets put together based on formula. As such, while the tools are comprehensive, they are not complex. In the Education MDG, three areas are highlighted: universal primary education, equality of access for boys and girls and for urban and rural children, and the quality of educational attainment. The Education Model (EPSSim) was developed by UNESCO and refined by UNDP BDP and RCC. The tool is comprehensive and can be used to cost all aspects of education policy. The key starting point for using the tool is to decide what the targets are (cost of building more schools, cost of staffing more schools in outer islands, etc). So it can be used to cost a whole range of policy options. Data requirements for input into the model is mostly demographic data and unit cost. The basic population for education is the number of children - boys and girls - entering the school each year and population growth rates; a base year to start the simulation exercise; data on class size; and measures to address high levels of drop-outs and the cost of these measures.

The introduction of the model was followed by a practical exercise which allowed participants to have hands-on experience with the education tool. There was strong interest in the costing tool as participants recognized that it enabled staffing requirements, infrastructure needs and other goods such as school materials, curriculum, etc to be costed.

### **Introducing the HIV Costing Tool, Ferdinand Strobel, UNDP Pacific Centre**

HIV & AIDS can have dire implications on all of the MDGs and, if allowed to spread, can actually reverse hard won development gains in the Polynesian countries as elsewhere. The linkages between HIV/AIDS and human development are complex and HIV appears to thrive more on income and gender inequalities rather than on poverty itself. Reported HIV cases in Polynesia are still low; however, they are increasing over the years and the small populations of Polynesian islands make them vulnerable. The high rate of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) found in Polynesia is a particular cause for concern as STIs are known to considerably increase vulnerability to HIV infection. There are socio-cultural and structural factors including gender inequalities, high mobility (of men in particular) and unfavorable laws for HIV response that can also contribute to higher HIV susceptibility and hinder the response. These issues are usually not factored in existing budgeting and costing exercises for HIV responses which tend to be essentially health-centric. The MDG costing model demonstrated includes a new area of costing labeled "Enabling Environment". It allows users to design and cost a number of interventions outside the typical health sector that are essential to consider in order for more comprehensive responses to HIV. Pacific countries and Polynesian islands in particular, still have a window of opportunity to move from commitment to action. It is important that the responses being designed are based on thorough appraisals of the cultural, political, social and economic parameters that could potentially drive HIV as well as draw on lessons learned from around the world. This is essential if the dramatic human, social and economic consequences witnessed in the comparatively more affected regions of the world are to be averted.

Day 3 - Session V: Objective: To look at how the environment and energy costing tools can support policy development, and draw linkages between development processes and disaster risk reduction for MDG achievement

### **Energy and poverty linkages, Thomas Jensen, UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok/UNDP Pacific Centre**

A key issue in Polynesian countries is the very high cost of petroleum products and electricity, particularly in remote/outer islands. The very high PIC oil price vulnerability has been documented by the Asia-Pacific Oil Price Vulnerability Index (OPVI) developed by UNDP. The recent year's increases in oil prices have had very severe impacts at macro-economic, sector as well as household levels. For instance, in all the Polynesian PICs there are low income households who use little petroleum fuel and electricity because of their high cost even when they are easily accessed. The key message is that without access to reliable and affordable modern energy services, achievement of the MDGs will not be possible in the Polynesian PICs.

A revised energy costing tool that has been designed specifically for the Asia-Pacific region was presented against this background. The revised energy tool captures Asia-Pacific regional specific energy planning and costing issues. The key aim of this tool is to facilitate policy dialogue, by providing countries with a methodology for estimating the cost of energy needs related to meeting their needs and the MDGs.

The discussions focused on the rising prices of energy and how PICs can mitigate this pressing concern. The possibility of PICs using indigenous resources (such as wind, solar, biomass and hydro power) was debated. It was noted that coconut seems to be a viable renewable energy resource in Tokelau. The issue of using income generating commodities to inject money into the national budget in order to offset the rising prices of energy was also raised.

On the issue of biomass and biofuel, countries noted that if there are changes in patterns of cropping leading to significant portion of traditional land being cut down, this again could lead to vulnerability in terms of land degradation. It was apparent that as the price of oil continues to increase, the economics of renewable energy are becoming more attractive. This being said, as in many other areas there are economies of scale. The cost effectiveness of energy alternatives (as for instance compared to diesel power systems) is thus a very important issue for small islands. In looking at a way forward, countries encouraged donors to build on past experiences (good as well as the bad ones) so as to make progress instead of repeating past mistakes including using in a PIC context proven technologies.

**Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction - Policy implications for the Pacific region, Herman Timmermans, UNDP Pacific Centre**

In setting the scene, the inter relatedness between environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction was highlighted. Environment encapsulates a number of different fields and issues, which makes it a difficult area to deal with. Islands are more vulnerable than mainland, and the linkage people have with natural resources must not be disrupted when dealing with development. A useful distinction was made between environmental conservation (putting aside areas where ecosystems are preserved) and environmental management (land use planning, zoning, etc).

Pacific SIDS are at greater risk to disasters and hazards, and while we cannot do much about physical hazards, it is possible to reduce socio-economic vulnerability. Evidence suggests that climate is changing and sea level is rising, with associated hydro-meteorological hazards expected to increase in frequency and intensity, putting Pacific SIDS at further risk. Consequently, there is an increased urgency to manage development processes in order to reduce vulnerability and risk.



Plenary discussion at the workshop

Some PICs are now developing National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and many have Country Climate Change Teams. While Pacific SIDS have policies to address vulnerabilities, there is often a lack of cohesion between economic, social and environmental policies. The most serious policy implication is that without adequate planning to reduce environmental impact, vulnerability and risk, and address climate change, the MDGs will be harder to achieve (water, education, health infrastructure, income, inequalities between men and women, etc). The over-arching policy response is to mainstream environment, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change (CC) into national development policy, planning, budgetary processes and sectoral policy and planning, and ensure that strategies to address the MDGs do not add to risks. Environmental activities under MDG 7 also need to take gender into account.

Recently, the GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF-PAS) program was approved for Pacific SIDS to tap into.

The discussions brought out further that development is a double edged sword, and that Pacific countries need to consider two key issues:

- ✦ While environment is a cross cutting issue which all sectors should address, having a stand alone agency facilitating the required mainstreaming process is very important.
- ✦ Have a close relationship between civil society and government.

The role played by the Red Cross at community level was widely acknowledged.

### **Environment costing tool, Thomas Jensen, UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok/UNDP Pacific Centre**

The presentation emphasized how the diverse ecosystems of the Pacific region play a vital role in meeting basic human needs, supporting sustainable livelihoods and contributing to national economic development. For instance the tourism, agriculture and fishing sectors contribute very significantly to national economic development in most of the Polynesian PICs. Thus environmentally sustainable investment clearly matters in the Pacific region and the environment costing tools can assist to estimate the associated costs to support environment interventions as part of a strategy for meeting the MDGs at the national level. Intervention areas in the tool as well as the strategic actions are indicative only and can very easily be modified to reflect country specific situations in the Polynesian countries.

As with the other costing tools, the introduction was followed by a hands-on approach to give participants a better understanding of how the tool operates and the areas captured.

Day 4 - Session 7: Objective - Moving from sector priorities to linking policy, sector / national planning and budgeting: Country experiences and good practices

### **Niue Case Study, presented by Margaret Siosikefu, Manager - Economic & Planning, Premier's Department, Niue Government**

Niue has a total population of 1625 (2006 census), with high mobility rates among young people who constitute the productive workforce. The government of Niue is the main stakeholder, resulting in civil society, the private sector and government working in isolation. Currently there is a strong push for the private sector to be the main driver of the economy.

The Niue Integrated Strategic Plan (NISP) 2003-2008 had 5 initial pillars, with a new focus area introduced during the review. These are Financial Stability, Governance, Economic development (largest pillar), Social, Environment and Taoga Niue which is Niue's language, customs, heritage and assets. The NISP 2003-2008 is coordinated by the Coordinating Office of the Premier's Department, who is now working on the 2008-2012 Plan. The outcomes of the evaluation process will inform the next formulation of the Plan. Each sector of the public service submits annual reports which feed into the NISP review.

The budget process starts with a Budget Circular to departments who prepare sectoral budgets before the budget is consolidated for approval by Cabinet. Before approval, the budget is sent to the Public Expenditure Committee who looks into ways of addressing expenditure levels to balance the budget. The link between the NISP and the budget process is quite tenuous as departments tend to base their budgets on estimates from previous years. Challenges include political influences, population issue, high cost of living and the high cost of personnel versus migration with 60% of the people employed by government.

### **Tokelau Case Study, presented by Afega Gaulofa, Senior Policy Advisor, Taupulega Office**

The National Development Plan has a 3-year time frame 2007-2010, set to closely link with the Economic Support Arrangement (ESA) with New Zealand. In both of these documents, Tokelau has highlighted the following priorities for the 3 year period: Village Development, Health, Education, Transport, Economic Development and Communications and IT. Priorities are established through the National Fono (General Assembly) which has representatives from all 3 villages as well as village consultations. Clear National Development Guidelines ensure that the National Development Plan relates to sector plans. Approval for the NDP is conferred through the Council of Elders, the Council for Ongoing Government and the National Assembly. Departmental bids for government budget contributions are based on these plans. The monitoring framework includes monthly and 6-monthly reports on Government budget contribution, complemented by the following reporting on donor contribution: internal monthly report, quarterly reporting to donors and 6-monthly internal reporting.

The Tokelau presentation had a specific focus on the health MDGs, reflecting the following results: on MDG 4, over the last 2 years there have been 3 infant deaths in Tokelau. On MDG5, while in most years there are no maternity deaths, over the past 2 year, Tokelau recorded 2 maternal deaths due to pregnancy complications. On MDG6, while there is no HIV case, there is a high incidence of STIs among mobile populations as well as a high incidence of NCDs which makes a significant dent in the budget. On MDG7, every house has safe and adequate drinking water, with about 60% of the population accessing basic sanitation. It was noted that climate change is a severe issue for Niue, with huge implications on the livelihood of this small island.

### **Tonga Case Study, presented by Dr. Malakai Ake, Ministry of Health**

The Tonga Strategic Development Plan builds on the theme of the first National MDG Report in 2005. The Strategic Development Plan Eight (SDP8) 2006-2009 is a 3-year plan, with an annual review and an update done every 6 months. The SDP8 is a milestone for the kingdom of Tonga as it is the first plan which underwent national consultation throughout all the islands, and with the public and private sectors. Government ministries have Corporate Plans based on the SDP8, which aligns with the MDGs. The draft SDP8 is approved by the Prime Minister and endorsed by Cabinet before approval by Parliament.

In terms of linkage to the budget process, the first step was to link the MDGs to the SDP8 and subsequently link the plan to the budget. SDP8 is a key policy instrument and has mandated performance indicators. The budget process requires that all ministries comply with a checklist which includes: (a) a Corporate Plan, (b) Expenditure and Revenues, (c) Staff Proposals, and (d) Performance Indicators. The Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Finance have now been merged into one entity, potentially enhancing the link between policy, planning and budgeting.

Community development funded by donors is led by NZ (67% of funding, and 11% by Japan, EU and Australia respectively) and this is complemented by government funding for community development. A monitoring mechanism is in place to follow up on the implementation of the SDP8.

The discussions highlighted the degree to which the planning and budgeting processes vary from country to country. It was noted that in the five countries present at the workshop, there is a lack of consultation with civil society when it comes to the budget process in spite of the fact that the national development plans emphasize the need for engagement with all actors. Consultation is much more meaningful on the national development plans. Participants felt that efforts should be made for more consultations outside of government agencies with civil society. It was also clear that in most countries, the budget allocation is done on an annual basis even if the development plan has a 3-year or longer time frame. In this respect, it was felt that predictable donor funding would be an advantage. It was highlighted that UNDP funding over the next 5 years is known.

It was also pointed out that CSOs should try and link their activities to the priorities identified in the NSDS and not be donor-driven because of availability of funds. Countries noted that the MDG costing tools would be helpful in costing sectoral plans, but that it would be important to distinguish between the cost of achieving stated objectives and what can be afforded in each country. Concern was raised over data and information systems in some PICs, and the need to integrate all data collection to better support reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

### **Samoa Case Study, presented by Litara Taulealo, Principal Sector & Projects Planning Officer, Ministry of Finance**

Samoa has a strong planning framework with the national plan (4-year) setting the overall policy objectives. The sector plans set the strategic direction for the sectors and have a medium term (5-10 years) focus. These are complemented by Corporate Plans which set out the approaches to be undertaken by government agencies to achieve stated policies. The final step is an Annual Management Plan which outline annual strategies/activities to achieve the objectives of corporate plans, and link with the budget.

The budget process reconciles fiscal targets with the need to reduce public debts. With those fiscal targets in mind, ministries are given a ceiling to align their submissions.

National priority setting is informed by a situational analysis and consultation with stakeholders by sector. The national vision is then established and submitted to Cabinet for endorsement. The SDS 2008-2012 is the 6th SDS, with the same vision of "Improved Quality of Life for All" as before. The focal areas include economic policies, social policies, public sector management and environmental sustainability. Notable changes from previous SDS include a comprehensive assessment of past performance, incorporation of relevant regional and international development goals (including the MDGs), an M&E framework, and environmental sustainability as a new goal.

In terms of the relationship between sector plans and the SDS, it is recognized that sector plans are a means to implement the SDS. Consequently, sectors are encouraged to develop MTEF simultaneously as a basis for integration into the budget, in line with the introduction of forward estimates. This provides a logical framework between planning, budget and a clear allocation of resources. Priorities are reflected through a program of activities that have funding endorsed over the medium term, with the MTEFs integrated into the budget where these have been developed. The SDS implementation matrix is also used as a basis for identifying sector priorities and corporate objectives.

Challenges include the consultation process which can be costly and sometimes is overdone; the planning linkages which are clear on paper but can be difficult to implement; the need to have sector planning completed across government (only 5 out of 15 ministries have sector plans); and in relation to that, the development of the MTEF. The lack of institutional capacity in some sectors makes all this difficult.

### Cooks Islands Case Study, presented by Liz Koteka, Director of Policy and Planning, Central Policy & Planning Office, Office of the Prime Minister

The Te Kaveinga Nui (2007-2010) - Pathway for Sustainable Development in the Cook Islands is the long term visionary framework for the country. 'Te Kaveinga Nui' which took 4 years to develop, seeks to respond to the 2020 challenge and is based on the achievement of the long term national vision:

*"To enjoy the highest quality of life consistent with the aspirations of our people, and in harmony with our culture and environment".*

Te Kaveinga Nui is translated into the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2007-2010, NSDP 2011-2015 and 2016-2020, which are the medium term planning framework for the country. The NSDP outlines the strategic goals, strategies and targets covering social, economic, governance, environment and cultural values and has been developed in wide consultation with all key stakeholders.

The 'Te Kaveinga Nui' and NSDP 2007 – 2010 were launched in January 2007. Therefore, the Cook Islands is still very much at an infancy stage in terms of medium to long term planning and budgeting.

Fundamental challenges in the development of the current NSDP 2007-2010 include the lack of political will and political instability, high turnover in Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister (the office responsible for national planning), lack of policy direction, limited resources and human factors. Despite these challenges, however, the experience has been invaluable and NSDP 2007-2010 has highlighted the need to have more robust planning, policy, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation systems.

A first step towards building more robust systems is the development of Sector Plans to complement the NSDP and direct the formulation of medium term corporate and annual business plans at implementing agency level. The development of sector planning is aligned to the move towards a medium term budgeting system. Currently, the Cook Islands have an annual budgeting process where appropriations are guided by the Budget Policy Statement (BPS) developed by 3 central agencies (Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management and the Office of the Public Service Commissioner). Although the BPS must be aligned to NSDP, this is problematic because the NSDP is neither prioritized nor costed. It is envisaged that subsequent NSDPs will be prioritized and costed at sector level. To ensure implementation of the NSDP and Sector Plans, a robust M&E framework is needed. In developing this framework, Cook Islands is challenged by the lack of baseline data, an area that needs strengthening.

This is an exciting time for the Cook Islands as it develops more robust, planning, budgeting and M & E frameworks. In all these activities the focus has been to move from output to outcome based systems so that results are not only efficient but also effective. However, the Cook Islands recognize that it still has to address the deficiencies in institutional frameworks, capacity and resources if it is to realize the goals of the NSDP and its long-term vision.

The thrust of the Cook Islands presentation was to share its experiences in coordinating planning, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation frameworks with other Polynesian countries and in particular to highlight the challenges that it faces in the development and implementation of these frameworks. It is anticipated that the next round of planning will be a lot clearer, more coordinated and effective.

### Linking Policy, Sector Plans, and National Strategy and Budgeting to Achieve the MDGs: Good Practices, David Smith, UN-ESCAP

The presentation outlined the linkages between policy, sector plans, national strategy, budgetary allocations and development outcomes. It was noted that many PIC governments find difficulty in translating their national policies and strategies into activities, projects and programmes funded through the government's own budget or funded by development partners. The presentation highlighted some of the reasons why these linkages are weak or do not exist. Reasons included the lack of coordination across government; the sidelining of a national strategy; lack of national ownership of the strategies; and lack of capacity in planning or policy offices. Critical good practices were outlined including the need for a strong agency to prepare, coordinate and monitor national plans; strong local ownership; sound analysis of local development challenges; and a budgeting system that supports the plan's priorities.

A number of useful tools were identified to assist in making the linkages more effective. These included sound ministry level corporate plans linked to the plan strategic priorities; a



Group discussion on gender responsive policy

plan monitoring system based on performance indicators and involving government and non-government organisations; and a budget system that includes aid resources and where ministry expenditure is based on clearly costed programmes to achieve national development goals including the MDGs. A Medium Term Expenditure Framework is a tool that can be used to plan well costed programmes within the fiscal limits of the country.

A more rigorous approach to testing the linkages was presented which involved a methodology for evaluating national development strategies. The evaluation methodology provides a means to identify key areas for improvement. The methodology is based on evaluating the extent to which national NSDS processes conform to good strategic planning and sustainable development principles. ESCAP has already tested this tool in a number of PICs.

The discussions pointed to the importance of medium term budget framework to plan for forward estimates. The issue of local ownership and political commitment at the highest level before these processes can proceed was raised. The role of civil society in monitoring government commitment and the importance of governance to underpin planning and budgeting processes was also noted.

In the **Action Planning and the Way Forward** session, the UNDP Pacific Centre emphasised that the workshop was not a one-off event, and that it was important to identify areas in which countries needed additional support at country level to implement the proper linkages among policy, planning and budgeting. Participants were provided a template reflecting the various issues addressed during the workshop and encouraged to provide feedback on the type of support needed for them to put into practice what they had learnt. The following table highlights the responses of the five countries attending the workshop, and reflects a consensus among delegates from the same country.

## Action Planning and the Way Forward

Countries	Status of poverty analysis: Is HIES data available for poverty indicators? Are you aware of plans for a new HIES? What support is required? When?	What is the status of MDG / CEDAW Reporting and plans for current or next National MDG Reports? Is there an MDG or CEDAW Task Force? What support is required?	Would you find it useful to have capacity building for evidence-based policy analysis and development (pro-poor, gender sensitive, child friendly policies)? Support required?	When is the review of the current Plan or formulation of the next Plan? When is the budget tabled? Is capacity building for strengthening links between planning and budgeting needed?	Costing Tools: usefulness and/or support for implementation																																				
Cook Islands	1998 survey was carried out but was not accepted by Government. A HIES with ADB TA will start in June 2000. Data is available from 2005 Census but no analysis has been done.	CEDAW Report launched this week, and the next one will be in 2011. Delegates highlighted the lack of funding for CEDAW consultation. An initial MDG Committee exists but must be reviewed. The 1st MDG Report was in 2005 and the next one will be prepared in 2009.	CDforevidence-based policy development is needed. Lack of resources. Central Planning will work more closely with Statistics. - Need strengthening of institutional set-up. - Empower the men to support the women? Currently there are only 2 women Parliamentarians across the Pacific. Would welcome support for Women Parliamentarians.	Budget draft was released mid-May. Budget will be tabled next month for 01 July cycle. Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Finance and Public Service Commission work closely. Support needed on how to do better consultation process and involve NGOs/ CSOs more meaningfully.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Health</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HIV</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Energy</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gender</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </table>	Health	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Education	✓				✓	HIV	✓				✓	Energy	✓				✓	Environment	✓				✓	Gender	✓				✓
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Niue	Initially scheduled for 2007, the HIES has been postponed due to funding gap (local commitment). The HIES survey will be included into 2008	MDG Reporting: Working towards 2nd MDG Report due in 2011. Funding needed for awareness programmes and technical assistance in 2009. MDG Task Force	Yes! Funding for capacity building and awareness programmes. Timing to be confirmed.	Development plan 2008-2012 currently under review. Budget will be tabled in June. Support needed to strengthen planning and budgeting linkages. Time to be	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Health</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </table>	Health	✓				✓	Education	✓				✓																								
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Samoa	budget estimate, but is not seen as a priority. Funding and technical assistance required.	consists of departments covering each goal. CEDAW: Government has not ratified CEDAW at national level. Draft report needs reviewing and nationalised. A suitable task force existed but currently not operational. TA support needed to finalise draft report in 2009.	Useful to have CD for strengthening evidence-based policy across the board for all Ministries.	confirmed	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Applicability &amp; Support Needed</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Very Useful</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Somewhat Useful</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Really</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not At All</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </table>	Applicability & Support Needed	✓	Very Useful		Somewhat Useful		Not Really		Not At All	✓
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## Action Planning and the Way Forward

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Tools					
Applicability & Support Needed					
Very Useful					
Somewhat Useful					
Not Really					
Not At All					
					Environment
Tokelau	It is assumed there is no poverty in Tokelau. HIES data is available from 2006 Census. Next census round will be in 2011. A follow-up workshop for Tokelau decision-makers to better base decisions on data available is required around Nov/Dec 2008. Census questions are not standardised.	No MDG Report. Workshops to raise awareness on MDGs is needed.	Technical and financial support is needed.	planning and budgeting practices. Training to be done in Feb 2009 before template goes out to Ministries.	Environment Gender Health Education HIV Energy Environment Gender

Table Continued...

Countries	Status of poverty analysis: Is HIES data available for poverty indicators? Are you aware of plans for a new HIES? What support is required? When?	What is the status of MDG / CEDAW Reporting and plans for current or next National MDG Reports? Is there an MDG or CEDAW Task Force? What support is required?	Would you find it useful to have capacity building for evidence-based policy analysis and development (pro-poor, gender sensitive, child friendly policies)? Support required?	When is the review of the current Plan or formulation of the next Plan? When is the budget tabled? Is capacity building for strengthening links between planning and budgeting needed?	Costing Tools: usefulness and/or support for implementation																																										
Tonga	<p>Last census was carried out in 2006, and is done every 10 years.</p> <p>There are plans for a new HIES. TA / Support is required for data analysis including disaggregating data.</p>	<p>1st MDG Report 2005 available. Next one will be in 2010.</p> <p>Financial assistance for local consultant and national consultations is needed.</p> <p>CEDAW – no ratification. CEDAW &amp; MDG Task Forces exist. Technical and financial assistance is needed asap to push forward CEDAW ratification.</p>	<p>Policy analysis – technical and financial assistance required to move forward.</p> <p>Tonga has ratified CRC</p>	<p>SDP done every 3 years, and will end in June 2009. The budget will be tabled in July 2009. CD to strengthen links between planning/budgeting to start this year. Dovetailing on this workshop, CD is required for Government, CSO, private sector to have their own sectoral consultations to feed into the SDP.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Tools</th> <th>Applicability &amp; Support Needed</th> <th>Very Useful</th> <th>Somewhat Useful</th> <th>Not Really</th> <th>Not At All</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Health</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HIV</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Energy</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gender</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Tools	Applicability & Support Needed	Very Useful	Somewhat Useful	Not Really	Not At All	Health	✓	✓				Education	✓	✓				HIV	✓	✓				Energy	✓	✓				Environment	✓	✓				Gender	✓	✓			
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					<p>Costing tools challenging but promising.</p>																																										

## Annex I

Sub Regional Workshop on MDG-based planning, costing and budgeting for Polynesian Countries  
Edge Water Resort, Rarotonga, Cook Islands  
26-29 May 2008

### Agenda

#### Day 1 - Achieving national development priorities and the MDGs & reducing poverty: policy implications

- 8:30 - Registration of participants
- 9:00 - Keynote address by Ms. Naheed Haque, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative, Samoa Multi Country Office
- 9:10 - Opening address by Hon. Jim Marurai, Prime Minister, Government of the Cook Islands
- 9:20 - Group photo
- *MORNING TEA*

#### Session I – Chair: Ms. Naheed Haque, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Samoa MCO

- 10:00 - The MDG framework in the Polynesian Sub Region, Carol Flore-Smreczniak, UNDP Pacific Centre
- 10:20 - Discussions
- 11:00 - Data sources, definitions of poverty, and policy implications, David Abbott, UNDP Pacific Centre
- 11:30 - Discussions
- 12:00 - *LUNCH*

#### Session II – Chair: Ms. Anuradha Seth, Senior Policy Advisor, UNDP RCC

- 13:00 - Pro-poor policy and implications for MDGs achievement, David Abbott, UNDP Pacific Centre
- 13:30 - Child-friendly policy and child-friendly budget for MDGs achievement, Mereia Carling, UNICEF
- 13:50 - Discussions
- 14:25 - The impact of migration on population structures in Polynesia: Implications for MDGs achievement, Jean Louis Rallu, UNFPA

- 14:55 - Gender-responsiveness for MDGs achievement, Ana Laqeretabua, UNIFEM
- 15:20 - *AFTERNOON TEA*
- 15:35 - Discussions
- 16:00 - Group Exercise on gender responsiveness
- 16:30 - Plenary discussions & reporting back
- 17:15 - Wrapping up
- 17:30 - Welcome Reception hosted by the UNDP Pacific Centre

## **Day 2 - Planning and Budgeting to achieve national priorities and the MDG**

### **Session III – Chair: Mr. David Smith, Policy Advisor, UNESCAP**

- 9:00 - How to plan for MDG-based NSDS, Anuradha Seth, UNDP Regional Centre Colombo
- 9:30 - Discussions
- 10:00 - Planning and Budgeting to achieve the MDGs, Emma Sanopo, National Economic Development Authority, Government of Philippines
- 10:30 - *MORNING TEA*
- 10:45 - Discussions
- 11:15 - MDG financing and linking cost estimates with national budgetary/ fiscal instruments: The core of the MDG Initiative, Anuradha Seth, UNDP Regional Centre Colombo
- 11:45 - Discussions
- 12:15 - *LUNCH*

## **Introducing MDG Needs Assessment and costing tools to support policy formulation at sector and national level**

### **Session IV – Chair: Mr Jean Louis Rallu, Policy Advisor, UNFPA**

- 13:15 - Introducing the Education Costing Tool, David Abbott, UNDP Pacific Centre
- 13:30 - Hands-on application of costing tool
- 14:15 - Plenary discussions and feedback

- 14:30 - Introducing the HIV Costing Tool, Ferdinand Strobel, UNDP Pacific Centre
- 15:00 - Hands-on application of costing tool
- 15:45 - *AFTERNOON TEA*
- 16:00 - Introducing the Health Costing Tool, David Abbott, UNDP Pacific Centre
- 16:30 - Hands-on application of costing tool
- 17:15 - Wrap up
- 18:00 - Official launch of the Cook Islands CEDAW Legislative Compliance Review by the UNDP Pacific Centre and the Government of the Cook Islands, followed by reception.

**Day 3 - We continue with the Costing Tools to identify sector priorities and cost interventions for MDG achievement**

*Session V – Chair: Mr. Paul Fairbairn, Manager, SOPAC*

- 9:00 - Energy and Poverty Linkages: Policy implication for MDG Achievement in the Pacific, Thomas Jensen, UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok / UNDP Samoa
- 9:30 - Discussions
- 10:00 - Introducing the Energy Costing Tool, Thomas Jensen, UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok / UNDP Samoa
- 10:30 - *MORNING TEA*
- 10:45 - Hands-on application of the costing tool
- 11:30 - Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Policy implications for the Pacific region, Herman Timmermans, UNDP Pacific Centre
- 12:00 - Discussions
- 12:30 - *LUNCH*
- 13:30 - Introducing the Environment Costing Tool, Thomas Jensen, UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok / UNDP Samoa
- 13:50 - Hands-on application of the costing tool
- 14:30 - Discussions
- 15:00 - *AFTERNOON TEA*

Session VI – Chair: Ms. Ana Laqeretabua, National Programme Officer, UNIFEM

- 15:15 - Introducing the Gender Costing Tool, Carol Flore-Smreczniak, UNDP Pacific Centre
- 15:45 - Hands-on application of the costing tool
- 16:45 - Discussions
- 17:15 - Wrap up

**Day 4 - Moving from sector priorities to linking policy, sector / national planning and budgeting: Country experiences and good practices, followed by Action Planning**

Session VII – Chair: Ms. Mereia Carling, Social Policy Officer, UNICEF

- 9:00 - Country Presentation Niue
- 9:20 - Country Presentation Tokelau
- 9:40 - Country Presentation Tonga
- 10:00 - Discussions
- 10:30 - *MORNING TEA*
- 10:45 - Country Presentation Samoa
- 11:10 - Country Presentation Cook Islands
- 11:30 - Discussions
- 12:00 - Linking policy, sector plans & national strategy and budgeting to achieve the MDGs: Good practices, David Smith, UNESCAP
- 12:30 - *LUNCH*

Session VIII

- 13:30 - Action Planning, David Abbott & Carol Flore-Smreczniak, UNDP Pacific Centre
- 14:30 - Plenary discussions and feedback
- 15:15 - Evaluation and Wrap up
- 16:00 - Closing

*AFTERNOON TEA*

## Annex II

### REGISTRATION LIST

#### List of workshop participants

#	Country	Name	Designation	Organisation	Address	Email	Alternative Email	Phone	Fax
1	Cook Islands	Ms Liane Bishoff Towgood	Snr Gender Programme / Research Officer, Gender Development Division	Ministry of Internal Affairs	PO Box 98 Rarotonga	liane.towgood@intaff.gov.ck		(682) 29370	(682) 23608
2	Cook Islands	Michelle Aisake	Statistics Officer Statistics Office	MFEM	PO BOX 41 Rarotonga	info@stats.gov.ck		(682) 29511	(682) 21511
3	Cook Islands	Dr Josephine Herman	Dr	Ministry of Health	PO Box 109 Rarotonga	j.herman@health.gov.ck		(682) 22664	
4	Cook Islands	Ms Mona Matepi	Country Manager	WWF Cook Islands	PO Box 649 Rarotonga	mmatepi@wwfcooks.org.ck		(682) 25091	(682) 25093
5	Cook Islands	Ms Tanga Morris	Senior Statistician, Statistics Office	Ministry of Finance & Economic Management	PO Box 41 Rarotonga	tanga@stats.gov.ck		(682) 29511	(682) 29651
6	Cook Islands	Ms Donye Numa	Policy & Planning	Central Policy & Planning Office, Office of the Prime Minister	Private Bag, Avarua Rarotonga	emci@pmoffice.gov.ck		(682) 25494	(682) 20856
7	Cook Islands	Ms Ruth Pokura	Director, Gender Development Division	Ministry of Internal Affairs	PO Box 98 Rarotonga	womendiv@intaff.gov.ck		(682) 29370	(682) 23608

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## REGISTRATION LIST

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9	Cook Islands	Mr Vaitoti Tupa	Director	National Environment Service	PO Box 371 Rarotonga	vaitoti@oyster.net.ck		(682) 21256	(682) 22256
10	Cook Islands	Mr Anthony Turua	Director of Finance	Ministry of Education	PO Box 97, Avarua Rarotonga	anthony@education.gov.ck		(682) 29357	(682) 28357
11	Cook Islands	Ms Mata Hetland	Climate Change Officer	Red Cross	PO Box 888 Avarua	matz@oyster.net.ck	(682) 22598	(682) 22598	(682) 22598
12	Cook Islands	Ms Dallas Young	Budget Manager/ Adviser	Ministry of Finance & Economic Management	Rarotonga	dallas@mfinance.gov.ck			
13	Fiji	Mr Paul Fairbairn	Manager	SOPAC	Private Mail Bag, GPO, Suva	paul@sopac.org		(679) 3381377	(679) 3370040
14	Fiji	Ms Paula Holland	Resource Economist	SOPAC	Private Mail Bag, GPO, Suva	paulah@sopac.org		(679) 3381377	(679) 3370040
15	Niue	Ms Amanda Heka	External Affairs Officer	Premier's Department, Niue Government		aheka@niue.nu		(683) 4200	(683) 4151

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#	Country	Name	Designation	Organisation	Address	Email	Alternative Email	Phone	Fax
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17	Niue	Mrs Margaret Siosikefu	Manager - Economic & Planning	Premier's Department, Niue Government	PO Box 39 EPDSU, ALOFI, NIUE	siosikefu@niue.nu		(683) 4148	
18	Niue	Rev Arthur Pihigia	Vice President	Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue		arthur_eyeloko@hotmail.com		(683) 4195	
19	Niue	Ms Tahadrienne Tahafa	Statistics Officer	Premier's Department, Niue Government	PO Box 39 EPDSU, ALOFI, NIUE	tahadrienne.epds@niue.nu		(683) 4219	
20	Niue	Mr Kristian Talepita	Technician	Niue Power Corporation		desiree@niue.nu		(683) 4119	
21	Niue	Ms Charlene Tukiuha	Community Development Officer- Women, Youth, counseling & Human rights	Department of Community Affairs	PO BOX 77 Halamahaga, Niue Island	ctukiuha@mail.gov.nu	Ninean-gal@yahoo.co.nz	(683) 4200	
22	Samoa	Ms Rumanusina Maua	Principal Human Resource Management Officer	Ministry of Health	Private Bag Apia	rumanusinaM@health.gov.ws		(685) 23330	

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## REGISTRATION LIST

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23	Samoa	Ms Faauiga Multitalo	Assistant Chief Executive Officer	Ministry of Women Community Development	Apia	fmultitalo@lesamoa.net		(685) 63404	
24	Samoa	Ms Molly Faamanatu Nielsen	Senior Capacity Building Officer	Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment	Apia	faamanatu.nielsen@mnre.gov.ws	Molly.nielsen@mnre.gov.ws	(685) 23800	(682) 2376
25	Samoa	Ms Amorette F Posini	Principal Foreign Affairs Officer	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)	PO Box L1859, Government Buildings Apia	amorette@mfat.gov.ws	amorette@mfa.gov.ws	(685) 21171	(682) 21504
26	Samoa	Mr Lubuto Siaoosi (aka Nuuausala)	Budget Officer	Ministry of Finance	Private Bag Apia	lubuto.siaoosi@mof.gov.ws		(685) 34333	(685) 21312
27	Samoa	Ms Litara Taulealo	Principal Sector & Projects Planning Officer	Ministry of Finance	Private Bag Apia	Litara.taulealo@mof.gov.ws		(685) 34333	(685) 21312
28	Samoa	Ms Roina Vavatau	Chief Executive Officer	Samoa Umbrella NGO	P O Box 1858, Apia	sungomanagement@lesamoa.net		(685) 24322	(682) 20654
29	Tokelau	Ms Hana Atoni Tui		Department of Education	PO Box 865 Apia, Samoa	tui_h@yahoo.com	Hana.tui@tokelau.tk	(690) 2137	(690) 2108
30	Tokelau	Mr Tanu Filo		Taupulega Office, Atafu	PO Box 865 Apia, Samoa	teatuhakea@yahoo.com		(690) 2116	(690) 2108

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List of workshop participants

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31	Tokelau	Mr Afega Gaualofoa	Senior Policy Advisor	Taupulega Office, Fakaofu	PO Box 865 Apia, Samoa	afega.gaualofoa@tokelau.tk		(690) 3130	(690) 3108
32	Tokelau	Dr Tekie Timu Iosefa	Chief Clinical Advisor	Department of Health	PO Box 865 Apia, Samoa	drtiosefa@yahoo.co.nz			(690) 2112
33	Tokelau	Ms Margaret Pedro	Policy Advisor	Taupulega Office, Nukunonu	PO Box 865 Apia, Samoa		Margaret.pedro@tokelau.tk	(690) 4127	(690) 4108
34	Tokelau	Ms Ake Puka-Mauga	Senior Policy Advisor	Office of the Council	PO Box 865 Apia, Samoa	akepuka@lesamoa.net		(685) 777 4574	(685) 21761
35	Tokelau	Mr Keni Tui	Secretary to the Taupulega, Atafu	Taupulega Office, Atafu	PO Box 865 Apia, Samoa	keni.tui@gmail.com		(690) 2116	(690) 2108
36	Tonga	Dr Malakai Ake	Doctor	Ministry of Health	Nuku'alofa	make@health.gov.to		(676) 23200 Ext 1325 / Mob (676) 5778418	(676) 27985
37	Tonga	Mr Onetoto Anisi	Economist	Ministry of Finance & Planning	Nuku'alofa	oanisi@finance.gov.to		(676) 23900 / Mob (676) 16311	(676) 24260
38	Tonga	Ms Lilika Fusimalohi	Education Officer, Women Affairs Division	Ministry of Education, women Affairs & Culture		llfusimalohi@gmail.com		Mob - (676) 58151	(676) 27099
39	Tonga	Ms Emeline Siale 'Ilolahia	Executive Director	Civil Society Forum of Tonga (CSFT)	Fatafehi Rd, PO Box 644 Nuku'alofa	csft@kalianet.to	esilolahia@yahoo.com	(676) 28282	(676) 21431

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## REGISTRATION LIST

#	Country	Name	Designation	Organisation	Address	Email	Alternative Email	Phone	Fax
40	Tonga	Ms Vanessa Lolohea	Director for TNVC	Tonga National Youth Congress	Nuku'alofa	vanessa@tnvc.org	Vanessa_lolohea@hotmail.com	(676) 25474	(676) 21431
41	Tonga	Mr Eti Teumohenga	Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Lands, Survey & Natural Resources & Environment	PO Box 5 Nuku'alofa	eddieteu@yahoo.com		(676) 23611 / Mobile (676) 15973	(676) 23216
42	Philippines	Ms Maria Purisima Sanopo	Assistant Regional Director	National Economic Development Authority, Philippines	Manila	esanopo@yahoo.com			
43	UNDP Pacific Centre, Fiji	Mr David Abbott	Pacific Regional Macro Economic & Poverty Reduction Advisor	UNDP Pacific Centre	2nd Floor, JJ's on the Park, Sukuna Park, Suva	david.abbott@undp.org		(679) 3300399	(679) 3301976
44	UNDP Pacific Centre, Fiji	Ms Shobhna Decloitre	Communications Associate	UNDP Pacific Centre	2nd Floor, JJ's on the Park, Sukuna Park, Suva	shobhna.decloitre@undp.org		(679) 3300399	(679) 3301976
45	UNDP Pacific Centre, Fiji	Ms Carol Flore-Smerezniak	Pacific Regional MDG Specialist	UNDP Pacific Centre	2nd Floor, JJ's on the Park, Sukuna Park, Suva	carol.flore@undp.org		(679) 3300399	(679) 3301976

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#	Country	Name	Designation	Organisation	Address	Email	Alternative Email	Phone	Fax
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47	UNDP Pacific Centre, Fiji	Mr Ferdinand Strobel	HIV & AIDs Programme Specialist	UNDP Pacific Centre	2nd Floor, JJ's on the Park, Sukuna Park, Suva	ferdinand.strobel@undp.org		(679) 3300399	(679) 3301976
48	UNDP Pacific Centre, Fiji	Mr Herman Timmermans	Disaster Risk Management Advisor	UNDP Pacific Centre	2nd Floor, JJ's on the Park, Sukuna Park, Suva	herman.timmermans@undp.org		(679) 3300399	(679) 3301976
49	UNDP Regional Centre, Bangkok/Samoa	Mr Thomas Jensen	Associate Programme Specialist	UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok RCB	UNDP, Private Mail Bag, Apia, Samoa	thomas.jensen@undp.org		(685) 23670	(685) 23555
50	UNDP Regional Centre, Colombo	Ms Anuradha Seth	Policy Advisor	UNDP Asia & Pacific Regional Centre	23 Independence Avenue, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka	anuradha.seth@undp.org		(9411) 4526400	(9411) 4524100
51	UNDP, Samoa	Ms Georgina Bonin	Assistant Resident Representative - Governance & Poverty Reduction Unit	UNDP	Private Mail Bag Apia	georgina.bonin@undp.org		(685) 23670	(685) 23555

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53	UNDP, Samoa	Ms Easter Galuvao	Assistant Resident Representative, Environment & Energy Unit	UNDP	Private Mail Bag Apia	easter.galuvao@undp.org		(685) 23670	(685) 23555
54	UNDP, Samoa	Ms Naheed Haque	UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative	UNDP	Private Mail Bag Apia	naheed.haque@undp.org		(685) 23670	(685) 23555
55	UNESCAP, Fiji	Mr David Smith	Regional Advisor, Development Policy	ESCAP	UNESCAP Suva	smith27@un.org		(679) 3319669	(679) 3319671
56	UNFPA, Fiji	Mr Jean Louis Rallu	Advisor	UNFPA	Level 5, FNPF Plaza, Victoria Parade, Suva	rallu@unfpa.org		(679) 3308022	(679) 3312785
57	UNICEF, Fiji	Ms Mereia Carling	Social Policy Officer	UNICEF	FDB Building, Victoria Parade Suva	mcarling@unicef.org		(679) 3300349	(679) 3301667
58	UNICEF/ UNFPA, Samoa	Ms Susan Faoagali	National Liaison Officer - Samoa	UNICEF/ UNFPA	WHO Samoa, PO Box 77, Apia	faoagalis@wpro.who.int	fsusan@lesamoa.net	(685) 23765 / Mob (685) 7722278	(685) 23765
59	UNIFEM, Fiji	Ms Ana Laqeretabua (aka Kata)	Ag National Programme Officer	UNIFEM	Level 5, Vanua House Suva	ana.laqeretabua@unifem.org		(679) 3301178	(679) 3301654

## Annex III

### **Statement made by the Honourable Jim Marurai, Prime Minister of the Government of Cook Islands**

Mrs. Naheed Haque, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

Distinguished participants from the governments of Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and from my own country Cook Islands, and civil society representatives from each country

Resource persons from UNDP in the Pacific, in Samoa, in Colombo, from UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNESCAP and the Philippines

Representatives of regional organisations

Members of the media and all here today,

*Kia Orana!*

On behalf of the Government and people of Cook Islands, I have the pleasure to address you this morning on the occasion of the opening of the Sub Regional MDG workshop for the countries of Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and my own country Cook Islands.

Let me extend a very warm welcome to you all, and hope that you will enjoy your visit to our island. Let me also express our appreciation to UNDP for choosing to organise this important sub regional event on the MDGs for the Polynesian countries in our country. We are proud to host you, and hope our country will live up to your expectations.

This year is indeed a landmark year for the MDGs. At mid-point year, it is important to look back and reflect on what countries have been able to achieve, and how far the international community has lived up to its pledges.

The latest UNDP Human Development Report highlights the progress made by countries in the Polynesian sub region in terms of its human development index, with significant progress recorded in education, health and other areas. Regional and National MDG Reports also confirm the trends that the Polynesian countries are on track and likely to achieve the MDGs. As you know, the Cook Islands was among the first Pacific Island Countries to produce a National MDG Report in 2005. This Report, which was finalised through a participatory process involving a partnership with civil society organisations, which had an innovative focus in that it tailored certain MDGs, particularly MDG 6, to fit the local context by adding a goal on non-communicable diseases and MDG 9 on governance showing national support for the democratic voice of the people.

Building upon the National MDG Report of Cook Islands, my government has taken the MDGs agenda forward by incorporating the MDGs into the National Sustainable Development Plan 2006-2010. While some progress has been made, we still need to address the issue of limited capacity due to our small population. Despite the challenges we face, the Cook Islands embraces the spirit of the Millennium Declaration and Development Goals, and we have resolved to fulfil our commitments and responsibilities to not only our own people but also to the world community.

As you are aware, the Pacific Plan remains a key framework on regional cooperation and regional integration. At the Forum Leaders' Meeting in Tonga last October, Leaders notably committed to a 'whole of government' and stakeholder based approach to strengthening and developing National Sustainable Development Strategies, noting the importance of operationalizing National based priorities with national budgetary processes. Leaders also called on regional agencies and development partners to jointly plan and coordinate regional assistance in support of Forum Island Countries to ensure that sectoral and cross cutting issues, are addressed and implemented through NSDS (and related) processes, with climate change and energy security as priorities for 2008. Climate change has now become an unprecedented challenge for the 21st Century, and we need to collectively implement adaptation and mitigation measures so critical for the survival of small nations. Vulnerability to rising oil and food prices, distances from markets, small populations and gender inequities - and the inter-relatedness among them - are issues of paramount importance to small islands developing states in this region and we need to find sustainable solutions to address them. We also need to balance these competing priorities with an equitable allocation of resources and opportunities for all, in particular for our vulnerable communities.

I am very pleased therefore to note that the focus of this sub regional workshop clearly responds to the needs outlined by Pacific Leaders and to our own development concerns. I particularly welcome the seamless collaboration of UN Agencies working together at regional and national level as One UN, to bring coherence to interventions at ground level, thereby optimising the use of resources and expected impact. Along the same lines, I also welcome the presence of representatives of regional organisations at this workshop.

I wish you the best for this workshop, and have no doubt that the outcomes will be achieved, given the commitment of every one to this event. I also encourage you to take some time to see what the island has to offer and wish you a very pleasant stay in the Cook Islands.

I now have the pleasure of declaring the workshop officially open.

*Kia Manuia.*



Emma Sanapo shares the Philippines experience

## Annex IV



### SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MDG-BASED PLANNING, COSTING AND BUDGETING FOR POLYNESIAN COUNTRIES

***Opening Statement by Ms. Naheed Haque, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative***

**Edgewater Hotel, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 26 May 2008**

Honourable Jim Marurai, Prime Minister of the Government of Cook Islands

Distinguished participants from the Governments of the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau and Tonga and civil society and private sector representatives

Representatives of regional organisations in the Pacific

Members of the media,

Resource persons from the Philippines, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNESCAP and UNDP Regional Centres in Colombo and the Pacific

Colleagues from the UNDP Pacific Centre, UNDP Multi-Country Office based in Apia,

Kia Orana! Good morning to you all.

I am very pleased to extend a very warm welcome to all of you on the occasion of this Sub-Regional MDG workshop on Planning, Costing and Budgeting, organised for Polynesian countries by the UNDP Pacific Centre in collaboration with the UNDP Multi-Country Office based in Apia. Before I go any further, let me extend my gratitude and deep appreciation to the Prime Minister, Honourable Jim Marurai, the Government and the people of the Cook Islands for kindly accepting to host this sub-regional workshop in their beautiful country. I am sure the participants will experience the legendary hospitality, kindness and friendliness of the people of the Cook Islands. Let me also thank you, Honourable Prime Minister, for taking time out of your very busy schedule, and for gracing us with your presence this morning. We are very honoured by your presence.

This sub-regional workshop is the third being held in the Pacific region. Last year, the UNDP Pacific Centre in collaboration with other UN Agencies and the UNDP Regional Centres in Colombo and Bangkok organised a similar sub-regional workshop for the Micronesian countries in June, and for the West Pacific and Melanesian countries in November 2007, reflecting the spirit of "One UN". We are very pleased, therefore, that this workshop is focused on addressing the specificities, unique needs and priorities of the Polynesian sub-region.

Honourable Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
This is a milestone year for the Millennium Development Goals and the Millennium Declaration. As many of you are aware, this year represents the mid-point year for the MDGs, as we are half-way between the Millennium Summit of 2000 and the deadline of 2015 to achieve the MDGs.

By now, we are all very familiar with the MDGs:

- MDG 1 : Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- MDG 2 : Achieve universal primary education
- MDG 3 : Promote gender equality & empower women
- MDG 4 : Reduce child mortality
- MDG 5 : Improve maternal health
- MDG 6 : Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- MDG 7 : Ensure environmental sustainability
- MDG 8 : Develop a global partnership for development

At this mid-point, much attention is understandably being placed on the performance of countries in their pursuit of the achievement of the MDGs and the partnership and global support required to reach these goals by 2015 – this global partnership is covered under MDG 8.

This sub-regional workshop is important because it brings together countries with similar human development levels to share experiences and learn from each other.

The Pacific is one of the least developed regions in the world, and PICs face common challenges due to their small size, geographic location and frequent natural disasters. Development is hindered by isolation from foreign markets, small domestic markets, high living costs, lack of natural resources, periodic devastation from natural disasters, inadequate infrastructure, human capacity constraints, and declining populations through emigration. Natural disasters, especially cyclones, have had a devastating impact on all four countries. In 2004, cyclone Heta caused widespread destruction in Niue costing US\$70 million. The 2005 cyclone season caused damage in Samoa, Tokelau and the Cook Islands (five consecutive cyclones causing more than US\$2 million worth of damage to infrastructure. There was similar destruction due to disasters in other countries.

I am very pleased to note that some Polynesian countries – including Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau – have achieved or are on track to achieve – MDGs 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.



UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Samoa, Cook Islands, Tokelau and Niue, Naheed Haque (middle) flanked on her right by UNDP Pacific Centre's MDG Achievement and Poverty Alleviation Team Leader David Abbott and UNDP PC's MDGs Specialist Carol Flore - Smerechniak

## MDG Progress, Human Development Indicators, Human Rights Instruments and Other Indicators

	SAMOA	COOK ISLANDS	NIUE	TOKELAU
Land area	2394 sq km	241 sq km	260 sq km	10 sq km
EEZ	120,000 sq km	1,830,000 sq km	390,000 sq km	290,000 sq km
Population	177,000 (2006)	18,027 (2001)	1625 (2006)	1,600 (2006)
Total living overseas	(100,000 living in NZ)		(20,100 living in NZ)	
HDI ranking	75 out of 177 countries (2006)	NA	NA	NA
GDI ranking	63 out of 136	NA	NA	NA
GDP growth	5.1% (2006)	5.8% (2005)	6.2% (2006)	(no data)
GDP/capita	US\$2,455 (2006)	US\$9,100 (2005)	US\$7,395 (2006)	US\$1,000 (2006)
<b>Progress of National Reporting on MDGs, Sustainable Human Development and Human Rights Conventions</b>				
MDG and NHD Reports	2004 MDG Report 2006 NHDR	2005 MDG Report	2006 MDG Report 2002 SHD Report	No report yet
Human Rights Treaties/ Conventions CEDAW	CEDAW Accession; Report 1, 2 & 3 submitted, Report 4 not submitted (due 2005)	Ratified with reservation, Initial CEDAW report submitted to UNDAW for considerations.	Niue bound by NZ ratification of CEDAW and CRC, with its own reporting duty	As a non-self governing territory administered by NZ, Tokelau is not able to ratify and/or accede to HR Treaties and conventions
CRC	CRC Ratification; Report 1 submitted, Reports 2, 3 & 4 not submitted (consolidated report due in 2011)	CRC Ratified with reservation. Initial report unsubmitted	Unsubmitted reports in 1998, 2003, 2006	
<b>Progress of National MDG Achievement since 1990 up to 2006</b>				
MDG	<b>Will goal be achieved by 2015?</b>			
MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	On Target	On Target	Already Achieved	(no data)
MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education	Potentially	On Target	Already Achieved	(no data)
MDG 3: Promote gender equality & empower women	Potentially	On Target	On Target	(no data)
MDG 4: Reduce child mortality	Already Achieved	Already Achieved	Already Achieved	(no data)
MDG 5 Improve maternal health	Already Achieved	Already Achieved	Already Achieved	(no data)
MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	On Target	On Target	Already Achieved	(no data)
MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	Unlikely	Potentially	Potentially	(no data)
MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development	Potentially	Potentially	Potentially	(no data)

However, there are two MDGs that I would like to bring your especial attention to, because it will take your effort and determination to achieve them. The first is MDG 3 on gender equality & women's empowerment. Polynesian countries may not all be able to achieve this MDG.

In February 2008, the UN Commission on the Status of Women met in New York to discuss the issue of Financing for Gender Equality. Member States who attended this meeting - which lasted two weeks - debated the challenges of achieving gender equality because of its centrality to reaching all the MDGs. Even though there is a specific goal on gender (MDG3), it is now clear that the MDGs can only be achieved if the gender dimension is addressed in each goal. Most countries were unanimous that more resources need to be made available to support developing countries to address gender inequalities such as gender-based violence, lack of female participation in the decision-making process and at political level, lack of access of women to paid employment, reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV and so on. I am therefore pleased to extend a particularly warm welcome to all the representatives of Ministries of Women who are represented here today. I hope that you will be able to take back a greater understanding of how gender is related to all the MDGs, and will be more capacitated to negotiate the mainstreaming and integration of gender in sector and national planning and budget processes.

The second MDG that is unlikely to be achieved is MDG 7 environmental sustainability. Environmental degradation continues to be an important issue in the Cook Islands. All the Polynesian countries have very fragile environments and limited natural resources. Climate change is an issue that is threatening the very survival of some Polynesian countries, and may well reverse some of the MDG gains made so far. Although key national environmental policies and plans are in place, urgent action needs to be taken to address priority environmental issues. Communities in some countries have started on-the-ground initiatives to integrate environmental management and livelihoods, and this can be a strategic entry point to achieve large-scale results and positive impact on the environment. As Small Island Developing States (SIDS), all the Polynesian countries have committed to the follow-up of the Mauritius Strategy, which needs to be factored into National Development Plans/National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) and MDG achievement reports.

In this context, I am pleased to inform you – and many of you already know – that the United Nations family in the Pacific, which consists of 14 United Nations Agencies, in collaboration with 14 Pacific Governments and stakeholders have developed a UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2008 – 2012 based on the needs and priorities of governments of 14 Pacific Island Countries – Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Vanuatu, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Tonga, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa and the Solomon Islands. The UNDAF, along with the country programme of individual UN agencies such as UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO, ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNIFEM, UNHCR, UNOCHA, UNOPS, WHO and WMO will work with Polynesian countries to achieve the MDGs and to demonstrate MDG impact.

You will be pleased to know that the Government of Samoa announced in October 2007 14 acres of land for an Inter Agency Climate Change Resource Centre to further a “one UN” approach towards climate change, a subject of critical importance for Pacific Island Countries. The Centre is expected to support regional and national climate change initiatives by coordinating and upscaling support from all UN agencies to Pacific Island Countries and Pacific CROP agencies. US\$1 million has been provided by UNDP as seed funding for the Centre.

This workshop therefore directly responds to the needs and priorities of countries present here today. The various sessions will strengthen understanding of how national and local development priorities can align with the MDGs, how they can inform policy formulation at sector and national level, how they relate to sector and national plan and budgets. As Governments have a primary responsibility to meet the basic needs of their people, we hope to better equip government officials to fulfil this role as duty bearers.

Civil society also has an extremely key role to play in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. In the Pacific, including in the Polynesian sub region, local NGOs and civil society organisations, including faith-based institutions have been very active in advocacy and service delivery in education, health, women's issues, environment and so on. The Pacific has a long tradition of consultation with the people, and it is important that this participatory process is maintained as countries open up the policy and budget debate to allow inputs from civil society. We hope therefore that this workshop will further deepen understanding of the various MDGs and what needs to be done, and that CSOs as right holders will work with Governments to contribute to achievement of the MDGs, holding governments accountable where necessary. I am therefore pleased to note the presence of several NGO and CSO representatives at this workshop, and I extend a particularly warm welcome to all of you.

Let me emphasise that this sub regional workshop is not meant to be a one-off event. Rather, it is intended to further increase awareness and develop national capacities in policy, planning and budgeting. Recognising that some countries have developed relatively strong national capacities in some of these areas, we would like to build on this by introducing innovative approaches to planning to achieve national priorities and the MDGs. The workshop will also introduce sectoral costing tools developed by UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo and the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy. These costing tools can support governments to estimate expenditure in education, health, gender, energy, environment, infrastructure and other sectors, and also support prioritisation of interventions and policy options. During the Action Planning session on the last day of the workshop, you will have an opportunity to identify areas where further support is needed at country level so that capacity strengthening and enhancement takes place on an ongoing basis.

For Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau I am pleased to announce that UNDP will be placing national Strategic Planners in the Ministries of Planning to support the process of mainstreaming MDGs into national development planning as well as serve as Liaison Officers for UNDP and the UNDAF

In closing, I would like to thank our colleague in the Government of the Cook Islands for offering to host this sub-regional workshop in Rarotonga, and for their invaluable organizational and logistical support, without which this workshop would not have been possible. I would especially like to thank colleagues from the UNDP Pacific Centre who conceptualized this workshop, provided the substantive content and made the arrangements, especially David, Carol and Mezi.

I wish you a very interesting workshop and discussions, and look forward to hearing about the outcomes of the workshop. But I also hope that you will get some time to see this beautiful country. Thank you.



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